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Board of Health Minutes 3/3/2010

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Ground Floor Conference Room
Senior Center, 27 Maple Street
5:30pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick (Chair)

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Health and Human Services, and Natasha Waden, Health Inspector.

The January 13, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Inspector Waden reported that the hearing with Krazy Karry's was withdrawn. Waden explained that after further review with Director Connolly, an administrative hearing with the owner would be held to discuss repeat violations. Waden stated that if the owner is unwilling to comply with the hiring of a food consultant then this case would be brought before the Board for review on March 24, 2010. Waden will provide a status update at the next meeting.

Director Connolly led a discussion with the Board on amending the Town bylaws pertaining to Abrasive Blasting. Connolly explained that this office put in a warrant article for Town Meeting to change the Abrasive blasting bylaw so that the Board of Health would be able to write regulations pertaining to power sanding. This office responds to numerous complaints regarding illegal power sanding during the warmer months. The current bylaw prohibits the use of power equipment for the purpose of abrasive blasting if the surface of the structure tests positive for lead paint. Both Waden and Connolly explained that there is new technology for removing lead paint by abrasive blasting from buildings, which minimizes the risk for lead exposure, while providing a lost cost alternative for homeowners. Connolly explained that by changing the current bylaw it would allow the Board to write regulations and change them through a Board vote as new technology becomes available. All board members were in favor of moving forward with this process. Connolly reported that a draft of proposed regulations would be available for the Board's review at the next meeting.

Director Connolly introduced Carol Kowalski and Don Benjamin from the Planning Department. Kowalski and Benjamin approached the Board to ask if they would consider looking into Biotech safety guidelines for the Town of Arlington. Kowalski and Benjamin explained that with future plans for the extension of the Green line the planning department would like to look into the possibilities of soliciting Biotech companies to come to Arlington. Both Benjamin and Kowalski explained that Arlington is surrounded by BioReady Communities, and if Arlington was able to tap into this industry it could help to increase business in Arlington as well as expand the tax base. Kowalski presented the Board with a summary of Biosafety levels, as well as a document on BioReady Communities developed by the Mass Biotechnology Council. The Board asked for additional clarification on land requirements pertaining to Biotech Companies, which Kowalski stated she would look into and get information back to the Board. The Board agreed to work with the Planning Department on moving this process forward. Kowalski agreed to provide status updates for the Board as this process moves forward.

Director Connolly informed the Board that the Redevelopment Board approached this office about implementing smoke free regulations to prohibit smoking at the Arlington Senior Center. Connolly explained that the state requires all properties where state agencies are located to be smoke free. The Department of Mental Health, a state agency, is a tenant in the Senior Center building, which is owned by the Town of Arlington. Connolly expressed her concern with limiting such a regulation to just the Senior Center Building. The Board agreed that such a regulation should be put into place which would affect all public buildings in town, not just one. The Board agreed to look into changing the tobacco regulations so that they include making all public buildings smoke-free. In the meantime, the Board suggested that the Redevelopment Board make a smoke-free building policy for the Senior Center building until such regulations can be developed.

Director Connolly provided the Board with an update from the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition (AYHSC).

Connolly reported that the AYHSC would be hosting its 4th Annual Community Forum on March 18th to address underage drinking and substance abuse in Arlington. The highlight of the forum will be an interactive presentation of the 2009 Arlington Youth Risk Behavior Survey that was administered to students in grades 6-12 last fall.

Inspector Waden informed the Board that six food establishments who currently hold a variance from the 1999 Food Code requirements have been scheduled to come before the Board to renew their variance and HACCP plans. Fusion Taste, Kayuga II and Manna Sushi have been scheduled for review on March 24th and Mr. Sushi, Toraya and Sabatino's have been scheduled for review on April 7th.

Inspector Waden provided the Board with a copy of a warning letter that was issued by this office to Junior's Variety, located at 203 Broadway, for providing false and misleading information to a Health Inspector. Waden reported that Andrini's pizza located at 1060 Mass Ave has opened. Two new food establishments have submitted plans for review. The Meat House, a type of butcher shop that will conduct reduced oxygen packaging of raw animal products is looking to open in the heights. The second, Little Q Hot Pot, a type of Chinese Mongolian BBQ, where the consumer cooks their food in a hot pot of broth. In addition to new establishments, Ristorante Olivio contacted Waden about installing a Brick oven pizza in the establishment. Waden informed the Board that the reports from the consultant working with Sabatino's Italian Kitchen have been very positive.

Director Connolly presented the Board with the 2009-2010 Flu Vaccination Report for H1N1, Seasonal and Pneumonia Vaccinations that administered by this office. Connolly reported that the Board of Health office completed 16 flu clinics for H1N1 and/or seasonal and pneumonia vaccinations during the months of October 2009-February 2010. The Board of Health office vaccinated over 7,100 people, which represents a 343 % increase over the 2008-2009 flu vaccinations. Connolly stated that these clinics and vaccination efforts would not have been possible without the help of Arlington's Medical Reserve Corps and other community agencies who pitched in to help. Connolly informed that Board that a Volunteer appreciation dinner and awards ceremony would be held on March 31, 2010 at Town Hall to honor all who helped with vaccination efforts.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55pm.